



ROSS VALLEY
CHARTER
A K-5 Public School

California State Board of Education
January 14, 2016

Educational Program

Blend of time-tested progressive education elements and new Common Core elements

- Multi-age groupings, prioritizing social emotional learning and new Common Core elements
- High student engagement by encouraging student interests, hands-on projects and activities, integrating many subject areas with art, music, performances, choice
- Emphasis on community
- High academic expectations

Experienced Team

- Six founding teachers work together in successful alternative multi-age program; share philosophy and strong working relationships
- 140 total years teaching experience, nearly 70 years multi-age experience
- All have CLAD certification and considerable experience teaching EL and Special Education students

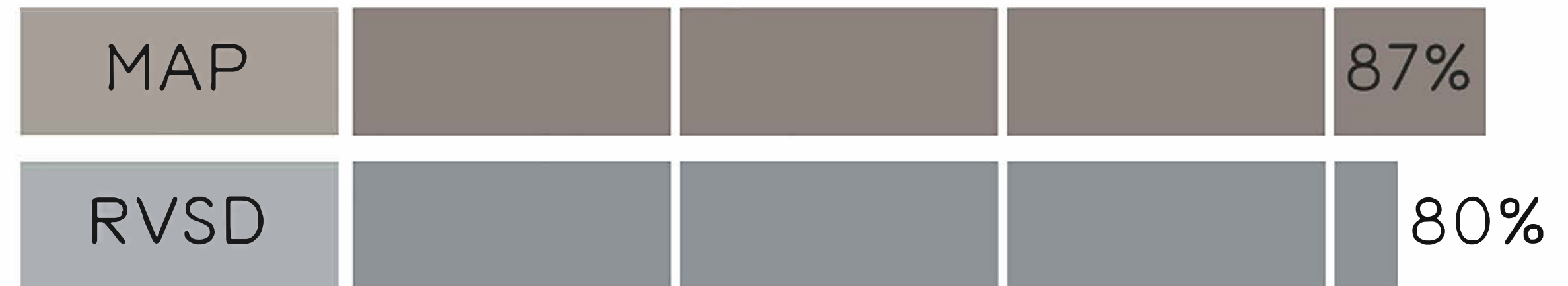
Results

5th Graders Who Met or Exceeded Standards in 2015 CAASPP Testing:

Math:



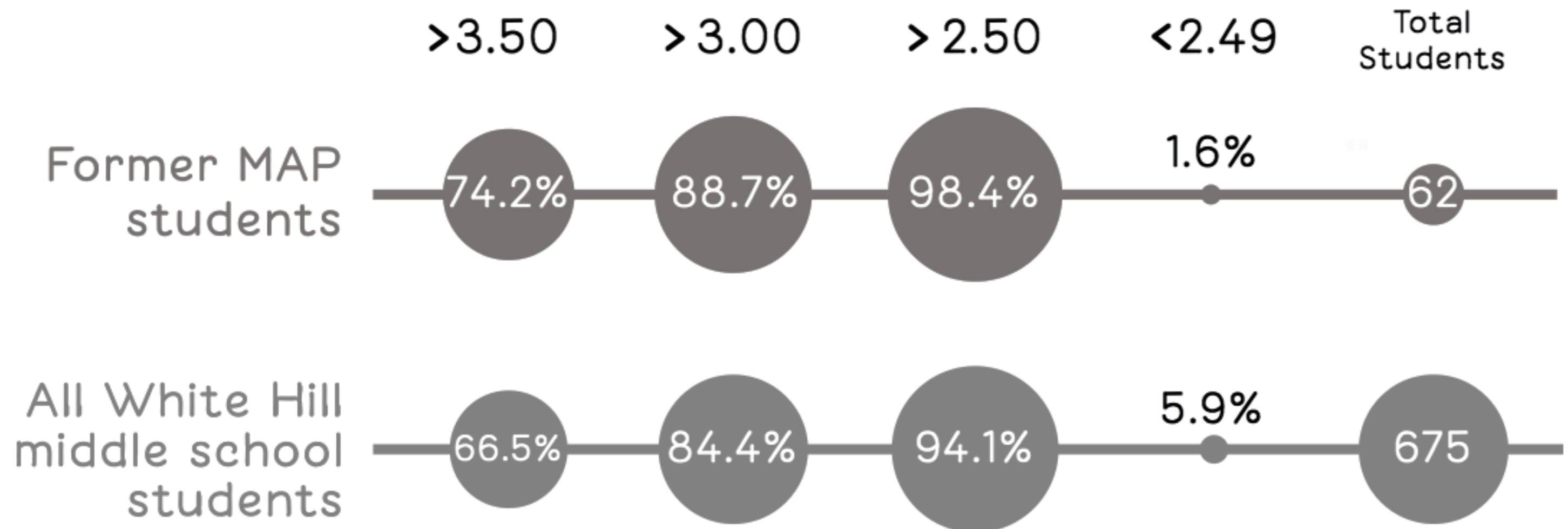
English-
Language Arts:



Results cont'd

- Students well prepared for middle school

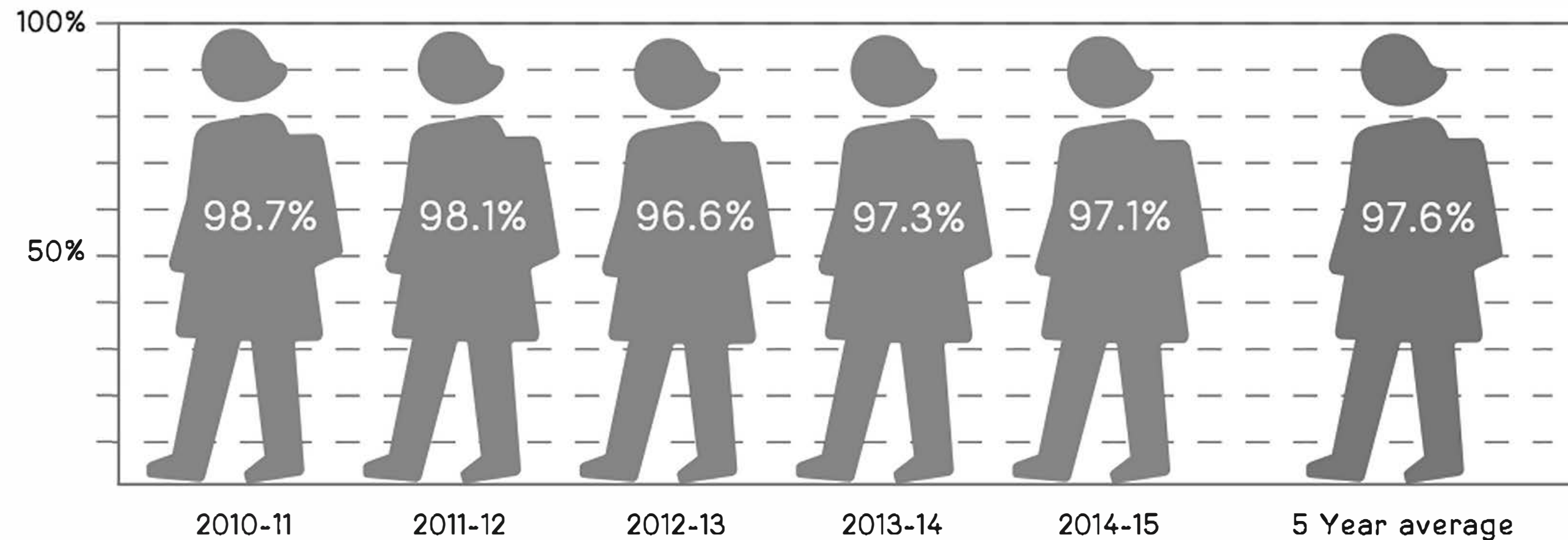
2013-14 fourth-quarter grade point averages (GPAs)



Results cont'd

- Average Year-Over-Year Retention Rate is 97.6%

Multi-age Program retention rate 2010-2015*



*includes families that have moved out of the district

Goals

1. Meet long standing parent demand for choice in Ross Valley
2. Create a more diverse school community
3. Create a culture of collaborative self-governance that empowers teachers, parents, and students

Goals cont'd

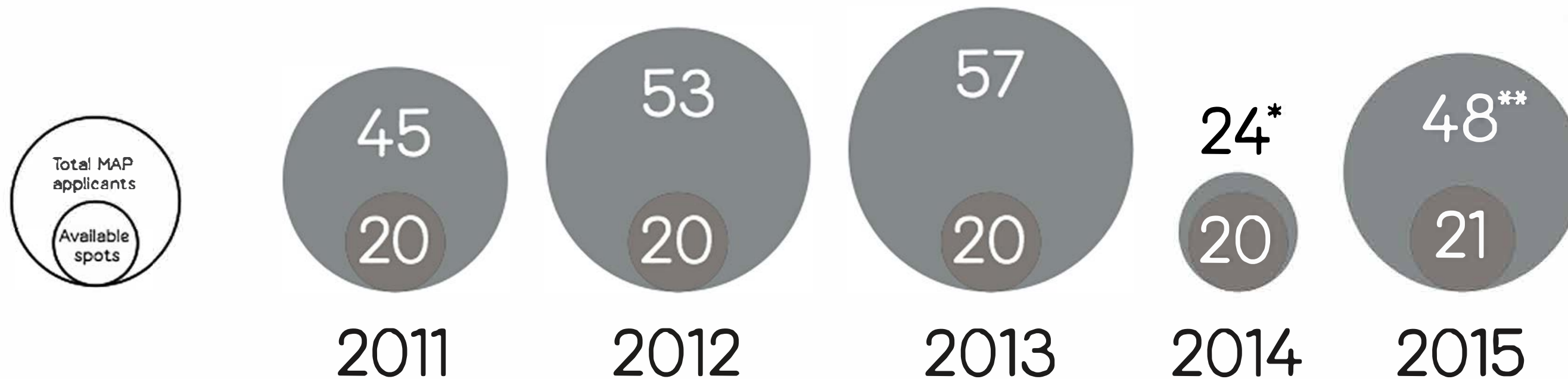
GOAL #1:

MEET DEMAND FOR CHOICE

Goals cont'd

- Current program oversubscribed for years
- Active wait list for MAP has averaged around 100 in-district students for many years

Multi-age Program Kindergarten applicants 2011-2015

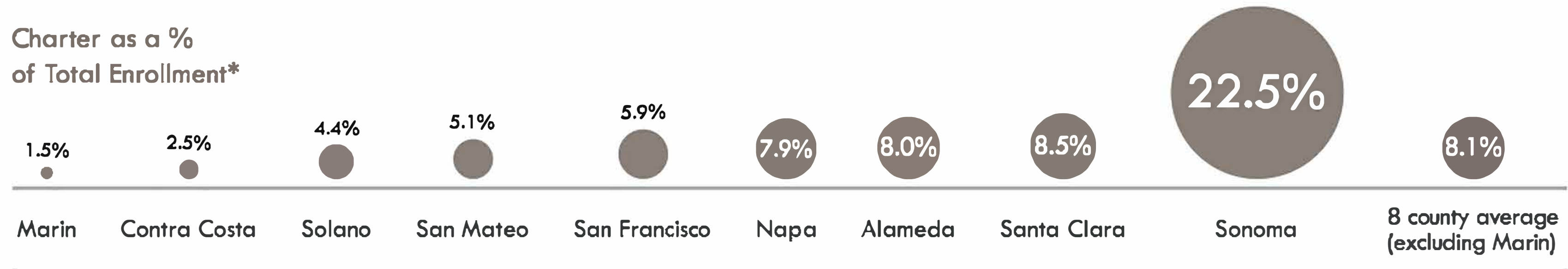


*In 2014 no mention of the Program was made at District kindergarten orientations, which resulted in lower than normal applications.

**as of March 2015

Goals cont'd "

- Marin County has only 3 charter schools that educate only 1.5% of students, compared to 8.1% average in the other 8 Bay Area counties



* Total enrollment for the state, including all public school (including charter schools) and private schools (private schools reporting enrollments of six or more students on their Private School Affidavits.)

Goals

- Lower and middle income families seeking educational choice have few affordable options

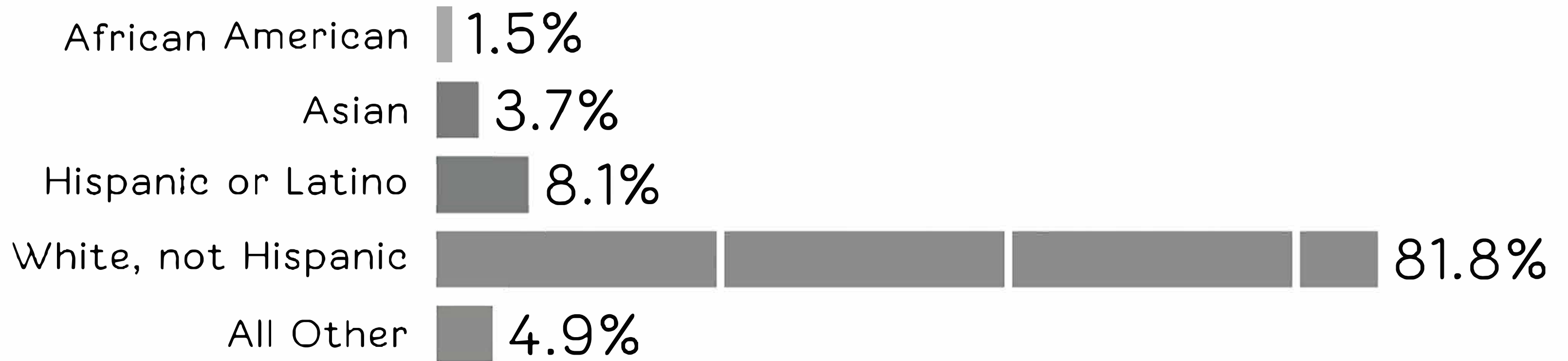
Goals cont'd

GOAL #2:

CREATE A MORE DIVERSE SCHOOL

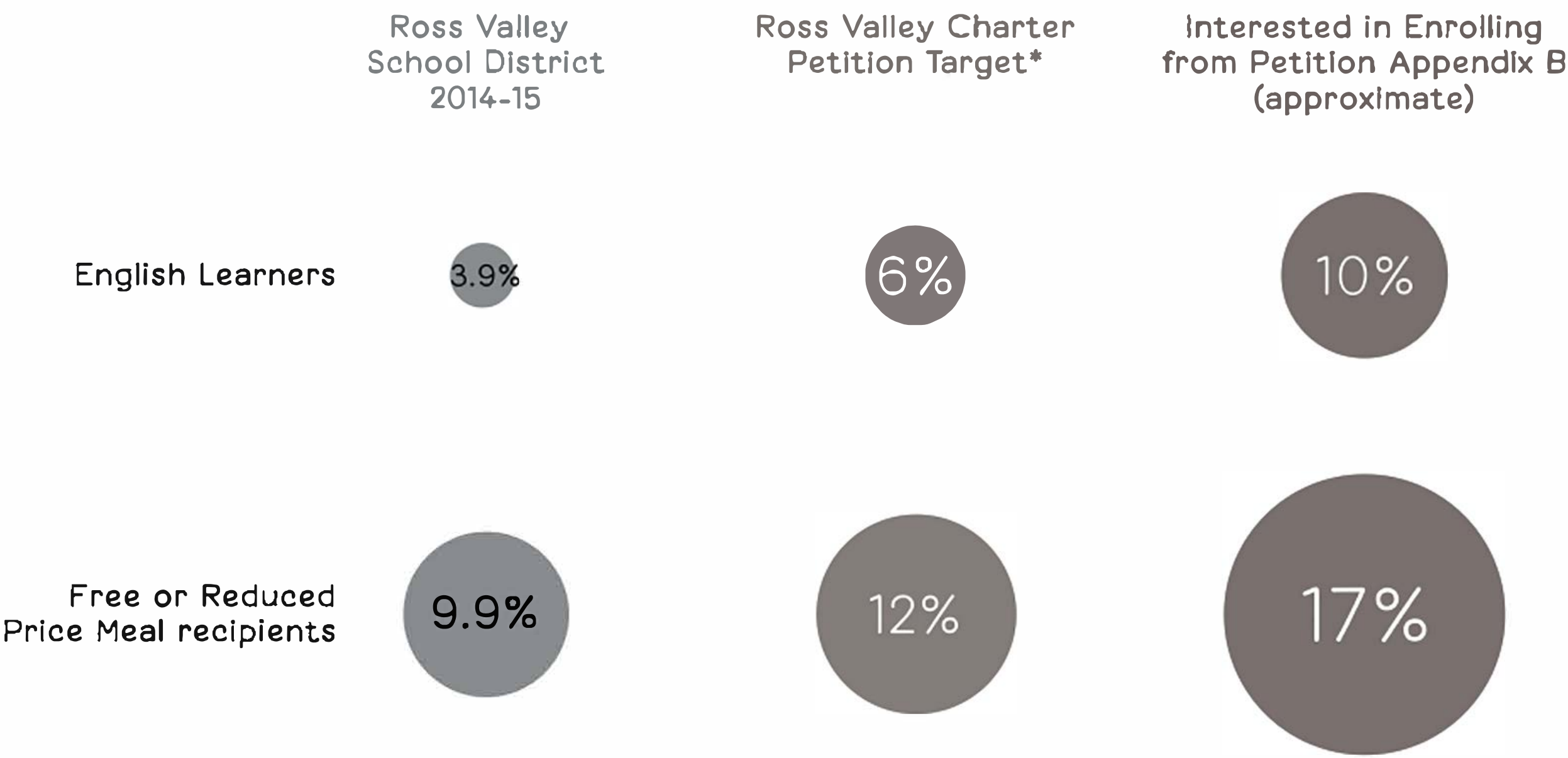
Goals cont'd

Demographic Makeup of Ross Valley School District



Goals cont'd

RVC Strives to be More Diverse than RVSD



Source: Ross Valley School District; Ross Valley Charter

*(target for 2016-2017) out of 222 students

Goals cont'd

Diversity Outreach Plan

- Partnering with Fairfax San Anselmo Children's Center (FSACC)
- FSACC is the only Title 5 low income childcare center (funded by the CDE) located in Ross Valley
- 70 K-5 FSACC students: 100% low income, 60% English Learners

Goals cont'd

Diversity Outreach Plan cont'd

- 38 FSACC parents signed Interested in Enrolling Forms
- Admission Preference for in-district EL and FRPL above other in-district students (p. 160)

Goals cont'd

Diversity Support Plan

- RVC's hands-on, interactive, individualized learning approach beneficial for EL and low income students
- Spanish speaking Family Outreach/Support Coordinator will support EL and low-income families
- EL credentialed teacher, Intervention teacher, and Special Ed teacher on RVC staff

Goals cont'd

Diversity Support Plan cont'd

- Committed to staff's continual improvement in Cultural Proficiency (petition p 37-39)
- Committed to CLAD certification for all teachers

Goals cont'd

GOAL #3:

CREATE A CULTURE OF
COLLABORATIVE SELF-GOVERNANCE
EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS

Goals cont'd

- Our Three Core Beliefs require a governance culture which encourages student, teacher, and parent agency, collaboration, inclusiveness, and shared ownership
- Leadership Council modeled after California school site councils is primary vehicle of stakeholder collaboration and empowerment
- School schedule coordinated so teachers empowered with long blocks of time weekly to collaborate on improving instruction and reviewing student work

History

- Two attempts at expanding program to meet demand by relocating MAP to its own campus in 2013 and 2014 (supported by a petition with 450 signatures)–both rejected by district.
- After first petition denied in November 2014, RVC rewrote petition to respond to district findings and community input
- Teachers have made several attempts to work with district trustees and/or administration for over two years regarding our goals

History cont'd

- In April 2015 District removed MAP's Alternative Education status.
- Superintendent told ACCS in December he didn't know if district would continue program if charter didn't happen

Governance Experience

- Parent and teacher agency (3 members, 1 attorney)
- Common Core State Standards (1 member)
- Charter school start-up and management (2 members)
- Public school governance and finance (2 members)

Governance cont'd

Common Core State Standards

Board Member Kate Crist, MAT

- Implementation Specialist, Washoe County School District Core Task Project
- Student Achievement Partner's Core Advocate for the State of Nevada
- Member of Achieve's EQulP Peer Review Panel
- Worked with: Student Achievement Partners; EdReports.org; Federal Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education; The New Teacher's Project; University of California Berkeley History-Social Studies Project Standards Work; and Reach Associates

Governance cont'd

Charter School Start-up And Management Experience

Board Member Roni Adams, PhD

- Founder of K-8 Ventura charter School of Arts And Global Education
- Chair, School of Education, Southern Oregon University
- Start-up assistance to several Oregon charter schools

Governance cont'd

Charter School Start-up And Management Experience

Board Member Kristi Kimball M.P.A.

- Board Member Envision Charter Schools
- As Executive Director of the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation and Program Officer at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, she has provided funding and oversight to scores of charter schools across the country
- Experience in the U.S. Department of Education

Governance cont'd

Public School Compliance, Finance, And Oversight

Board Chair Sharon Sagar

- Ross Valley School District (RVSD) Trustee when MAP was established in 1996
- 16 years of RVSD Trustee experience 1995- 2011
- Two time graduate of California School Boards Association 9 Module Masters in Governance
- 4 years of Board President Experience

Governance cont'd

Public School Compliance, Finance, And Oversight

Board Member and CFO/Treasurer Conn Hickey M.A.

- 27 year career as Chief Technology Officer at Westamerica Bank, managing a profit center with \$8 million in revenues and 50 IT employees
- 6 years as RVSD trustee, graduate of CSBA Masters in Governance, with specialization in finance
- Graduate of ACSA School Business and Superintendents Academies

RVC is Prepared for Success

- Teachers: petitioning teachers will be 2/3 of RVC classroom teaching staff
- Students: parents of 95% of MAP students have signed forms indicating interest in enrolling (approximately half of RVC's projected enrollment)
- Educational program: history of success
- Governance team: experienced and committed